



**Cultural Responsivity Sub-Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2013**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Cultural Responsivity Sub-Committee was held on Monday, April 8, 2013 at the First Things First Board Room, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Members Present: Dr. Pamela Powell, Dr. Peggy Federici, Terry Doolan, Colleen Day Mach, Jacquelyn Power, Holly Henley  
Members On Phone: Noreen Sakestiwa (until 1:20 p.m.), Chris Lanterman, Paula Hale (until 1:33 p.m.), Kimberly Tenario  
Members Absent: Daneille Gagnier, Susan Jacobs, Juan Carlos Tarango  
FTF Staff: Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Stephanie Willis, Marla Dedrick, Brooke Travis, Cynthia Chavarria

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

**Review and Approval of Final Recommendations**

Chair Powell called for a review on the final definition of Cultural Responsivity. The Sub-Committee reviewed and had no changes. Chair Powell called for a motion to move forward with the Recommendations. Member Federici moved to accept the recommendations, Member Powers seconded. Chair Powell called for final comments. Dr. Samuel notified Members that the recommendations will continue with Staff work and will be shared with Karen Woodhouse, Program Division Chief and Rhian Evans Allvin, Chief Executive Officer of First Things First who will then decide when to present to the Board. Chair Powell called for a vote, all ayes, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Chair Powell announced that Members Dennis Ichikawa and Jeff Smith have resigned. Dr. Samuel notified Members that a five minute meeting will be needed in May to approve the minutes from this meeting and that the Sub-Committee will not meet again until April 2014.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Powell called for review and approval of the draft meeting minutes from December, 2012. Member Power noted that Gwendolyn Paul attended the last meeting as her Designee but was not listed on the minutes. Member Lanterman moved to accept the minutes with the addition of Gwendolyn Paul attending the February meeting as Member Power's Designee. Seconded by Member Hale. All voted aye, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried.

Dr. Samuel introduced the new staff to the Family Support and Literacy unit. Stephanie Willis and Marla Dedrick gave a brief introduction.

**Sub-Committee Annual Update Meeting Date**

Dr. Samuel informed the Sub-Committee that the next meeting will be scheduled for April 2014. Sometime in January/February 2014 a Doodle request will be sent out for Members' availability.

**Acknowledgments**

Chair Powell thanked everyone for their participation and commitment and at this time certificates of appreciation were distributed.

Member Power announced that the Blackwater Community School in Coolidge, Arizona located on the Gila River Indian Reservation was awarded the National Title 1 Distinguished School of the Year award. Member Power was named 2012 National Distinguished Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Though graduation rates are still low, they have experienced a great increase. The Blackwater Community School is tracking its graduation rates and they still see a disconnect between Jr. High and High School graduation rates. Tracking is not always done on record but because the Community is small, Member Power knows the families and who's no longer in school. The Blackwater Community School has a two year program called FACE (Family and Child Education Program) and through this program they are

able to identify problems and provide as much help as they can to support the students. These same students often come back as young parents and we continue to try to help them along in their education. These Parents realize that education is important and bring their children to our schools. Though data from Tribes is difficult to obtain, Member Powers has seen four generations of students pass through the program with a third of the Parents participating being Fathers. Part of the success has to do with providing cultural/language supports as well as because of the FACE program. Cultural Responsivity is what brings them back and they can identify with us.

Another program that Parents can identify with is that every child in the school is learning their Native language. Chair Powell stated that it is the law, there is an Executive Order for Language Preservation. Through the program, the language is being written and Member Powers shared that some of the Elders are not fully accepting of using technology as a tool for language preservation because the language has traditionally been an oral language. The program is lucky to work with the Maori Language Rejuvenation Program as well as with the Hawaiian Language Program.

Another reason for the disconnect between Jr. High and High School is because of culture differences and lack of technology. Most children living on reservations rarely leave it so to be thrown into a high school off the reservation is a culture shock and our kids enter the dominate culture at a disadvantage. Technological difficulties can entail lack of electricity and no internet connection.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.